

# St. Thomas More Society OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

## Executive Committee

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*Anthony D. Phillips, Immediate Past President*

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*Regis Servus Dei Prius*

October 4, 2019

Dear Members:

I am excited to see many of you at this month's Red Mass.

First, however, the Society extends a special thank you to Jilma Meneses and Catholic Charities for sharing information about their organization and its mission at our September luncheon. We appreciate their time and hope to further engage with Catholic Charities in the near future.

### **Red Mass**

This month the Society will host its largest event of the year - our annual Red Mass.

**When: Thursday, October 17, 2019, 5:30pm Mass, 7:00pm Dinner**

**Where: Sts. Peter and Paul Church, 666 Filbert Street, San Francisco; dinner to follow at the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club, 1630 Stockton Street, San Francisco**

The Red Mass is celebrated annually by legal communities around the world. The tradition originated in Paris in 1245 to mark the start of the judicial year of the Sacred Roman Rota, the highest appellate tribunal of the Catholic Church. The Red Mass tradition spread throughout Europe in subsequent centuries and today is celebrated in several countries, including England,

Ireland, Scotland, the Philippines, Canada, and the United States. Its name derives from the red robes worn by the judges of the Roman Rota, as well as the vestments worn by clergy during the Mass. The color red signifies the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles at Pentecost and is symbolic for us as lawyers: we attend the Mass to invoke guidance from the Holy Spirit and the gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, and fortitude. Archbishop Cordileone and our guest homilist, Archbishop Bernard Hebda of Minneapolis/St. Paul will bless the congregation this year.

The St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco has celebrated the Red Mass since 1937. We welcome all judges, lawyers, law students, government officials, and other members of the legal community from throughout the Bay Area to join us this year. You may RSVP at our website [here](#), through the Evite invitation that will circulate shortly, or by emailing me directly.

Following the Mass, we will honor this year's St. Thomas More Award recipient, the Hon. Jeffrey Brand of the Alameda County Superior Court and former dean of University of San Francisco Law School. Judge Brand has helped found and lead numerous global justice and international legal assistance projects, including the Center for Law and Global Justice at the University of San Francisco. He made many contributions to the Society while dean of USF, and we are pleased to celebrate him at this year's Red Mass. Please join me in congratulating Judge Brand.

### **Annual Dues**

If you have not yet done so, please pay your annual dues on our website [here](#). The Society must cover an added number of costs in connection with the Red Mass and our Christmas program. It is essential that those who have not yet paid their 2019 dues do so as soon as possible.

### **2020 St. Thomas More Society Board**

We are currently considering candidates to join our 2020 Board. Board Members help organize all Society events and coordinate our charitable activities. If you are interested in joining the Board, please email me.

### **Additional Upcoming Events**

**November Luncheon** – We are currently finalizing details for our November luncheon, which will be announced shortly.

**Christmas Luncheon** – Our annual Christmas luncheon will take place on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at the Family Club of San Francisco. Once again, we will enjoy music by the De Marillac Academy and are organizing a Secret Santa drive for the school's students. This year we will also provide a Toys for Tots collection bin. Please consider whether you would like to participate in either of these activities.

Please contact me with any questions, and I look forward to seeing many of you on October 17th.

Sincerely yours,

Amelia Lancaster

President

St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco